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A bit-rate independent optical receiver and a method thereof. In the bit-rate independent optical receiver, an optoelectric converter converts an input optical signal to an original electrical signal, a bit rate identifying unit forms a resultant signal by performing an exclusive-OR (XOR) logic operation on the original electrical signal received from the optoelectric converter and a second signal corresponding to the original electrical signal delayed by a predetermined quantity of time, and detects a bit rate from the resultant signal, a reference clock generator generates a reference clock signal according to the detected bit rate, and a clock and data recovery circuit recovers a clock signal and data from the input signal according to the reference clock signal.